

Langston University

Digital Commons @ Langston University

LU Gazette, 2010 -

LU Gazette (Student Newspaper)

10-5-2021

The Gazette October 5, 2021

Langston University

Follow this and additional works at: https://dclu.langston.edu/archives_gazette_newspaper_20102019

the Gazette

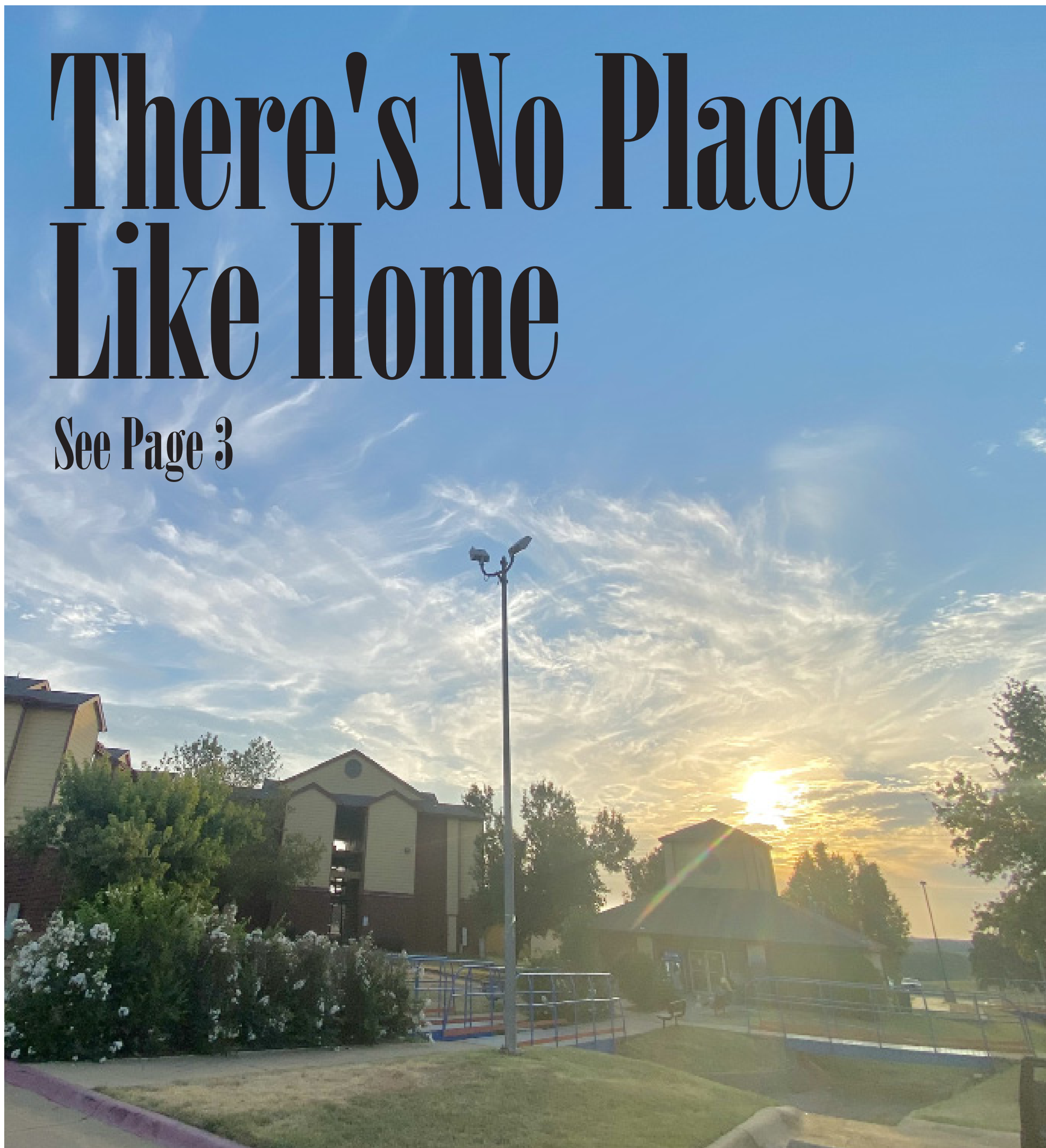
VOL. 84, NO. 1

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

There's No Place Like Home

See Page 3



The Gazette

The Gazette is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University. It serves as a teaching tool.

The newspaper is published biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

Managing Editor
Paris Rain

Staff Writers
Kesean Cleveland
Nia Daniels
DeAsia Montgomery
Sasha Ndisabiye
Aaron Wesley
Neija Whitehead
Maya Williams

Advertising Editor
Nia Daniels

Adviser
Daniel Thompson

The Gazette Office
Langston University
Sanford Hall, Room 318

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to dthom34@langston.edu. Opinions expressed in Voices are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles. Letters to the editor should be emailed to dthom34@langston.edu. Please include your name and telephone number. The newspaper retains the right to edit, accept and/or reject items deemed to be contrary to the best interest of the publication, Langston University and/or any of its governing bodies.

Hosea Bell, head softball coach, dies at 57



By Maya Williams
Staff Writer

Langston University's head softball coach, Hosea Bell, died on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021. Bell was head softball coach for 9 years, starting in 2013. Bell's family joined with friends to celebrate his life at a memorial for his passing at SunnyBrook Christian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on Sat, Sept 25 at 10 a.m.

"He was more than a coach to us; he was more of a dad," said Kalynn Gray, a player for Langston University's softball team. "He was always there for us when we needed him and he also believed in us more than we believed in ourselves."

During the memorial, speakers expressed their love for Bell and shared the ways he touched their lives. In one moment of the proceedings, his eldest daughter spoke of his love for the cupid shuffle, playing the music and encouraging family and friends to dance.

"He was a man with so much heart and cared for all of us as his own," Zaria Bledsoe, another player for Langston University's softball team, said. "I will al-

ways have him in my heart for all the things he has done, not just me but the whole team. I will always love you coach! Keep watching over me! LLCB."

Coach Bell was loved and cared for by many at Langston University, especially by his softball girls.

"Coach Bell was just one of those people that you just cannot forget about," Nevaeh Garrett A current member of Langston University's Softball team stated. "Just meeting him makes a huge impact on your life, and I will always love Coach Bell and cherish our moments. Especially when he would give us our props if we played well and he would get on us if he felt we weren't playing up to our potential. He will forever be in our hearts and minds."

Bell helped create the national HBCU Softball Classic, now classified as the Red Dirt Classic, which is held annually in Oklahoma City. Langston plans to rename the Red Dirt Classic after Bell in the near future.

Maya Williams is a junior broadcast journalism major.



Langston housing shortage

Upperclassmen left without rooms

By Neija Whitehead
Staff Writer

Within the first few days of move-in students without a housing assignment were turned away leaving them with the difficult task of finding a place to stay.

"Before move-in day I received an email saying the dorms are full and to not show up. It sucked, especially since campus opening backup would be vital to me being able to do things outside of staying in my room," said Kesean Cleveland, a sophomore from Oklahoma City. "It was strange because I thought I did everything right. I was also confused as to how dorms were full when last year I never lived in a dorm with all rooms full."

According to Assistant Dean of Students Kavaris Sims, "the pandemic, new facility team, new housing team and Langston paying off student balances led Langston University to face difficult challenges this semester, limiting housing spaces for students who are in

need of housing." First-year students and transfer students were guaranteed a place to stay while the sophomore, juniors and seniors are on a waiting list. It may take weeks to be called for a room.

There are 168 students on the waiting list without the proper housing. "Since the first week of September we have been able to get the list down. We've also been making calls to students who have been displaced and in my opinion deserved the right to have a first option on getting a space because their rooms were not available. We must take care of those students before we get to the waitlist," Sims said.

While housing staff have talked with students about their living circumstances and are trying to show students their empathy, some students express frustration with not having a room.

"The staff did not handle my situation, they didn't care about us having no home and they were very rude," said Kia Wil-

liams, a senior attending Langston. When asked to comment, Sims said "Housing is shifting their efforts ensuring that we are providing quality housing customer service and apologizes for the inconvenience of the start of this fall semester."

Students living off-campus without a vehicle rely on their parents or friends to take them to class every day. One student walks two miles every day to get to class. "Being a college student is hard when you are trying to hold a job, go to school and have to put gas in my car everyday," Williams said. Students and parents may 28 miles (34 minutes) from Edmond or 42 miles (43 minutes) from Oklahoma City one-way due to the lack of campus housing, which increases their daily expenses. Parents are "uncomfortable", "upset" and "displeased" according to student interviews. They hoped that their child would be safe in the university's hands.

Some students are having trouble shifting their attention

onto schoolwork from housing. "Now that I am on campus I am able to think clearly but living outside of campus I was so unfocused, my mind was on housing," said Santori Dean, a junior from Fairview, Oklahoma. Students living off-campus are having trouble making it to class on time which impacts attendance grades. The official university attendance policy states that if a student misses more than seven days of class they are to be dropped from the class. It also states that 3 tardies equals out to one absence. "I feel like we should not have an attendance policy if we can't have housing," said Williams.

Kavaris Sims says he'll improve the housing situation by communicating more with the students through daily emails, holding students accountable for completing their housing applications, expanding deadlines and creating a self-select window for the following semesters. The select window will be a new modification where students with a zero bal-

ance can enroll into housing, get enrollment confirmed with the university and have the opportunity to select a space. For students who do miss the opportunity to select a room, the housing department will pick a room for them and ensure them a space.

Many upperclassmen are still waiting for an update from housing regarding a room. One student, Dart Reed, gained a different perspective about attending Langston University due to what he sees as a lack of services and slow, unorganized administration. "Langston was my dream school when I was a sophomore in high school," said Reed. "Now without having a place to stay here, I don't feel good about attending here. Hopefully they can change my mind."

Neija Whitehead is a graduating senior business management major and broadcast journalism minor.

New food director is here for the students

By Nia Daniels
Staff Writer

Food services director Sheena Ellis is the newest addition to the Langston University staff, and the students call her "Mama Sheena."

Her plans for the University's dining services include working alongside S.G.A. & S.A.B. to ensure all students are taken care of and their needs are met; sometimes, that may look like putting in specific food requests. S.G.A. vice president Takeria Burke and her committee are working alongside "Mama Sheena" and the food services this school year.

The Langston dining staff are still transitioning from Sodexo dining services to Aladdin. Multiple renovations are happening in the cafeteria to establish a brand-new dining experience, including "the expansion of the dining area

along with the newly renovated Lion's Den as well as the C-store," and those renovations will continue into 2022, Ellis said.

"Mama Sheena" hopes to provide themed meals every month for each holiday, whether that's Halloween or Thanksgiving. She plans on "Celebrating students' birthdays with two decorated cakes; flavors include chocolate and vanilla, and three flavors of ice cream. Along with a decorated table and balloons during the lunch meal at the end of each month. By doing this, it gives students a sense of feeling special, especially since they can't celebrate their birthdays with their families," she said.

Ellis has worked for Aladdin for about 17 ½ years. "The love and the passion I have for my students kept me going, and that motivates and inspires me to continue to want to come to work every day," Sheena said.

She has traveled to over half of the Historically Black Colleges in the United States and worked at about 20 them including Wiley College, where she graduated from. Her first college position was as a catering manager at Texas Southern University. She says she has always been proud of her HBCU and HBUC's in general, so coming to Langston felt like a "family-based atmosphere."

Her mom inspired her love of food, creativity and service. In 1988, she started her catering and decorating company called "Wedding Dreams and More Making Dreams Come True." This allowed her to create different menus using her unique sense and taste of foods, influenced by her southern roots.

Burke and her food committee meets with "Mama Sheena" every month to discuss the cleaning protocols they have



for dining services and evaluate the dining hours to see how they can accommodate more students. Burke and her committee also discuss students' concerns and issues that they

are experiencing, and they collaborate with dining services to see what measures need to

see NEW FOOD DIRECTOR
page 4

Scholars Club appoints new president

By **Sasha Ndisabiye**
Staff Writer

After having to postpone club proceedings for over a year and a half, Langston University's Scholars Club has reconvened to elect representative and government positions. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the club had been inactive in order to protect the students and their advisors from infection. Fall 2020 was the first time in decades that there were no elections for the student government and representative positions.

On Sept. 16, the Scholars Club announced the winners of the 2021 election: Destini Phillips as President, Kennedy Lampley as Vice President, Adriana Anderson as Treasurer, Sharadon Jenkins as Secretary, Rodney Rollerson as Mr. McCabe, Victoree Norris as Miss McCabe, Treyvon Lewis as Mr. Regents, Adriana Anderson as Miss Regents, Ash-

er Bellavigna as Mr. Scholars Club, and Lovetta Mba as Miss Scholars Club.

The program consists of 258 honors students and there are two major scholarship awards: the McCabe and Regents scholarships. Both are academic scholarships, the McCabe being a full ride including tuition, room and board, and extra fees, while the Regents offers all the same amenities, except for room and board. To keep the scholarships, each student must maintain a 3.0 or 3.5 GPA, depending on which scholarship, complete mandatory community service and represent the Scholars Club at University events. "The group of elected officers do have the power to shape and add to the mission of the Scholars' Club each year," said Kyle Gregory, Coordinator of the honors program.

The president of the Scholars Club, Destini Phillips, is a second-

year nursing major and McCabe Scholar. She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Woman and Women of Purpose. Feeling as though she needs to "build it from the ground up" again, Phillips has come prepared with an arsenal of ideas to present to the club to kick-start the new school year. During campaigning, each nominee had the option to make a submission video to introduce themselves and give the voters an idea of who they are and what they want to accomplish. "In my video I focused more on community service, since all scholars program kids have to have service hours and focused on us doing it together," Phillips said. Phillips also plans to arrange multiple bonding events specifically for honors students. With the hope that she will get approval from Scholars club advisors, she believes events like an honors bonfire or block party will be beneficial and

bring the community together.

Besides the government positions, students also hold representative rolls for the honors program. This includes Mr. And Miss McCabe, Regents and Scholars Club. Rodney Rollerson, a junior accounting major, with future aspirations as a business entrepreneur, decided to run for Mr. McCabe because, "I wanted to step out of my comfort zone; I had never done something like this before.". He mentioned how new experiences can be good for you and how he looks forward to representing McCabe scholars during the Inauguration this week. Standing next to him, representing the female McCabe scholars, will be Victoree Norris. She is a junior finance major, with goals in the financial management field. Norris was also recently pinned as an ambassador, and serves as the treasure coordinator for the Student Activities Board, President of

National Society of Leadership and Success, a NAACP peer mentor, and a member of Women of Purpose. When asked about her time at Langston as an honors student she said, "I've loved it so far actually. I like Langston a lot and it definitely makes it better being involved in certain organizations, especially the big five."

Scholars Club President, Destini Phillips, was grateful to the student body members saying, "I want to tell my supporters thank you for voting for me! I wanted to tell my officers thank you because they've been working with me, and they've been helping me out and planning. Scholars Club will be coming together sooner rather than later so watch y'all's emails."

Sasha Ndisabiye is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

NEW FOOD DIRECTOR

from page 3

be taken to guarantee every student feels heard, has a voice and feels like they can make suggestions and raise concerns.

"Our relationship with them is actually really good. She receives everything that I say. She tries to make accommodations for certain things. I know some stuff is out of her power, but the things she can do, she does," said Burke on her partnership with Ellis.

The collaboration between Burke and "Mama Sheena" allowed the C-store to reopen on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, in its new temporary location in the SSC. The C-store has been closed since the beginning of the semester.

As far as improvements go, Burke is advocating for better café hours for students. She also relies heavily on student feedback, so she and her committee from S.G.A. have created QR codes that they've placed all around campus so students can submit their comments, questions, and concerns. Also, since the café doesn't have as many workers, she is working on a community service event for the café possibly involving S.G.A. volunteers working with the dining staff to serve students.

Ellis is very in tune with the latest trends and social media apps. She believes college students keep her young and are fun to be around. You may have heard music playing in the café, and that's because she believes "music feeds the soul."

She wants everyone to know that "her doors are always open, and there is nothing too big we (students) can't handle together."

"She's a really nice lady, and she really understands certain food insecurities students have, and she wants to implement a lot of new things within the food service that students will like," Burke said.

"Mama Sheena's" goal is to give students a good dining experience, and she encourages everyone to follow their passions. "Doesn't make sense to go to a school and not achieve your goal and graduate. It is so imperative to get the paper because that paper will take you places you can't even imagine you could go. But you must find your passion because it's easier to get up in the morning than it is to go to a normal job," she said. One of her favorite quotes is to "work like you don't need the money."

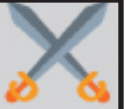
Nia Daniels is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

BATTLE OF THE



SCAN ME

Vote for your favorite English or Humanities professor. The professor who receives the best feedback will be given the "Outstanding Teacher Award."



P
R
O
F
E
S
S
O
R
S

ELT reports three active COVID-19 cases

By Kesean Cleveland
Staff Writer

There have been a total of 176 COVID-19 cases on all three Langston campus sites. There are only three active cases as of the meeting held on Sept. 20 by Langston University's Emergency Leadership Team (ELT).

"Case numbers are tallied and reported by reviewing and totaling the cases reported through our Notification Form and/or positive cases identified through on-campus testing," a representative from the ELT said.

They also reported 98 individuals have been vaccinated

on campus.

There have been a total of 598,072 Oklahomans with positive COVID-19 test. 18,831 of these positives cases are currently active. In Logan County there have been a total of 5,509 cases with only 369 of those cases being active cases.

The Langston University main campus will still be giving opportunities for people to receive COVID-19 test as well as the Moderna vaccine. The upcoming dates to get vaccinated, both taking place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. are on Wednesday October 6th and Wednesday October 13th. A negative test will be

needed before you can show up to one of these vaccination dates. Langston will be giving the vaccines in the multipurpose gym. Langston University still expects its students and staff to wear masks whenever indoors and encourages social distancing.

The ELT also presented numbers of people in Oklahoma with the three main vaccines and showed how many of those experienced a breakthrough case (a breakthrough case happens when someone who is fully vaccinated catches COVID-19). In Oklahoma, 115,900 people had taken the Johnson and Johnson vaccine with there being a total of

819 breakthrough infections. This is approximately a 7% breakthrough case rate. The number of Oklahomans fully vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine is 734,012. Of these there have been 2,688 breakthrough cases. This is approximately 3.6% breakthrough case rate making it the lowest of the three. When it comes to the Pfizer vaccine there have been a total of 951,332 people vaccinated with 4,791 breakthrough cases. This is approximately 5% when it comes to amount of breakthrough cases with the Pfizer vaccine.

All members of the ELT team are as follows: Presi-

dent Kent J. Smith Jr.; Joshua Busby, dean of students; Vice President Ruth Ray Jackson, academic affairs; Vice President Theresa Powell, operations Executive Director; Dytisha Davis, LU-Tulsa Vice President; Mautra Jones, institutional advancement & external affairs; Donnita Rogers, director of athletics; Alicia Sumlin, risk management coordinator; Kavaris Sims, assistant dean of students; Lee King, HES facilities services; Director of Facilities Bruce Boyd, HES facilities services.

Kesean Cleveland is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Campus Question

What are you most excited about for homecoming month?

Compiled by Paris Rain



Taylor Myers
Junior
Chemistry Major

"I'm excited for the sneaker ball and the concert because I get to show off my new fashion designs"



Diva Hunt
Junior
Business Management Major with a focus in Marketing

"I am most excited to perform at the halftime of the homecoming game as the captain of the Golden Feline Dance Team. I am also excited to meet more Langston alumni and make connections that can be used in the future."



Elija Weaver
Junior
Accounting Major

"What I am most excited for about homecoming month is essentially the pride and tradition that occurs during homecoming. From various activities, events, and social gatherings, it is a great sight to see crowds of people with similar backgrounds coming together to celebrate what brought them together in the first place."



DaCota Mims
Junior
Child Development Major

"I'm most excited for the tailgate and football game. It's the best part of homecoming."

Golden Felines have unique season and goals ahead

By Aaron Wesley
Staff Writer

The Langston University Marching Pride Band started out the season by competing in Battle of the Bands for the first time in over a decade, followed by a Sept. 18 parade in Perry, Oklahoma. This was the first parade of the year for the band, as well as for the Golden Feline Dancers.

In the past years there has always been more than one veteran team member on the Golden Feline Dancers participating in the parade. However, due to injuries sustained by veteran dancers Paris Taylor-Mahone and De Asia Montgomery, Golden Feline Captain Diva Hunt is the only veteran dancer on the team.

Hunt and the ladies who dance with the Golden Felines, Jamie Scales, Jordan Jackson, and Courtney Webster, sat down for a Q&A on their first parade of the year and their goals for the rest of the season.

Q: How did you feel going into your first parade of the year as captain?

Hunt: "I was actually very excited. Last year I led a parade but I was co-captain and I was very nervous because it was last minute, but going into this first parade and actually being captain I was excited to do better than I did last time so it was just a very exciting day and I think I did well."

Scales: "At first I was nervous, but while I was performing it was very exciting and it definitely made me love dancing even more."

Jackson: "I was really nervous but I think this helped

me improve."

Webster: "It was very frightening at first but once I saw the crowd was actually enjoying our performance I felt like I was doing what I was suppose to do. So I felt like it went very well."

Q: How do you feel the captain (Diva Hunt) will help you develop this year?

Scales: "The captain definitely helps with technique. She pushes us hard but it's out of love because she wants to become stronger

has definitely improved since I've gotten here. I feel like my captain is very persistent with our technique, coordination, and everything we do on the team. I feel like she's helping us stay together and be better versions of ourselves."

Hunt: "The biggest pressure of being captain is just juggling everything. School always comes first and dance always comes second, but being in so many extracurricular activities you just want to make sure you

I also have to help myself, so just managing and juggling everything throughout life and school."

Q: How do you plan to help the girls develop over the season?

Hunt: "I plan to help them develop, one, as a dancer, by increasing their technique, fluidity, and how they dance outside of feline as well. I want them to be well-rounded dancers. It's not just about the majorette style. Being a dancer means that you have to

the best of it. So telling them to get involved and also telling them to manage their time well so they can be great student leaders as well as great dancers."

Q: What are your goals for the year?

Scales: "Make it through the year and be a better person and dancer."

Jackson: "To improve on my technique, because it's something I haven't learned so I want to get better at it."

Webster: "To be better than I was last year, better than I was the day before. I've always strived to be better than what I used to be, that's my only goal."

Hunt: "I want the Golden Feline Dance Team to be the best dance team there is. I feel that in past years we haven't gotten the recognition we deserved. Of course, from the school we've always gotten recognition, but not from outside sources like social media and collegiate rankings. So it's really just my goal to get our name out there and really teach the girls not only to be a great dancer, but to be a great woman, and that just ties along with life. I really try to teach them life lessons, build them up as dancers, build them up as people, and show them that the felines are just a confident group of women that are ready to conquer anything."

Aaron Wesley is a junior broadcast journalism major.



Dancers Left to right: Jordan Jackson, Courtney Webster, Jamie Scales, Diva Hunt, DeAsia Montgomery, Paris Rain, LaDaisha Kinsey

and better in the real world, not just in the dance world."

Jackson: "She helps with my technique while pushing us hard and makes me a better person overall."

Webster: "My technique

are at your best in everything, so I would definitely say time-managing. Also I'm a very helpful person, so even though I help the girls and my teammates, I look at them as little sisters.

dance in all styles. So I'm introducing them to a lot of different things while also introducing to them how to be a great college woman, because college is only four years and you want to make

The Gazette is looking for news and story ideas for our next issue! If your department has an event or news topic you'd like us to cover, please let us know!

Send story ideas to dthom34@langston.edu

Lions undefeated after four games



By DeAsia Montgomery
Staff Writer

Langston University football is currently undefeated with a season record of 4-0, with 2 home game wins and 2 away game wins. They made their season debut facing off against Panhandle State University at their home field and bringing home a win of 10-7.

"On the field we focused

on doing the things we do well, not putting to many complicated plays in, just doing the simple stuff," #1 starting quarterback Larry Harrington said. "Off the field we changed our mind set, you know, hanging out with each other more."

According to Langston University's official website, "the Langston University Lions set a single game record for points scored Saturday

night as they knocked off Arkansas Baptist 85-6 at W.E. Anderson Stadium."

The Lions kicked off the game with a lead of 22-0 in the first half. By the second half, Arkansas Baptist had made their first touchdown with a score of 6 points, before the Lions scored an additional 63 points, leaving the final score 85-6. Quarterback #19 RaQuon Washington set a university record

in this game; as reported by the official Langston website, "Washington tied the single game touchdown record of eight set by former Lions' quarterback Jaylen Lowe back in 2018 versus Texas College." Washington has now been named SAC football player of the week after the win against Arkansas Baptist. "I'm not really into small accolades or personal accolades," Washing-

ton said. "I'd rather win all 10 games and get somewhere in the playoffs." The Langston Lions will play next Saturday Oct 2, 2021 at 2 p.m. in Bateville, Arkansas, as they face off against Lyon College.

DeAsia Montgomery is a junior broadcast journalism major.

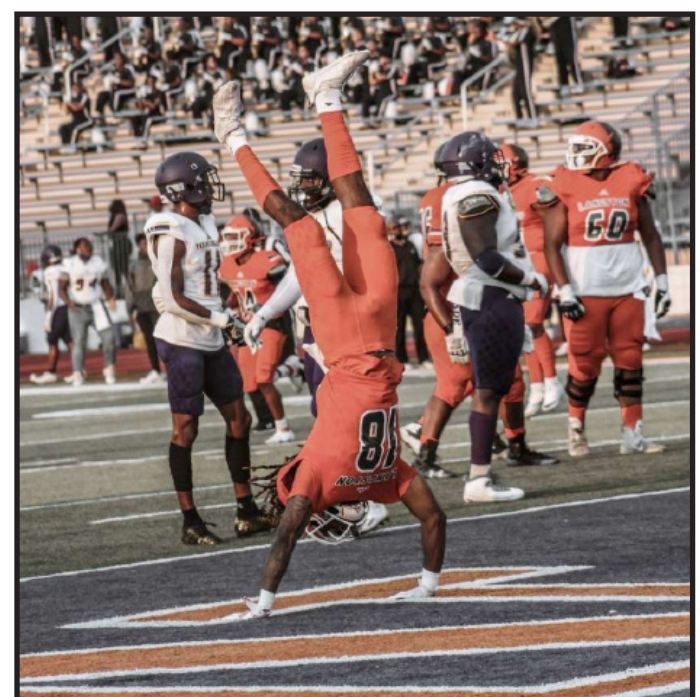


Photos by Na'Tianna Stocker

TOP: Travis Romar, celebrates with teammate after completing a touchdown.

LEFT: Rashad Muhammad, defensive end, during the 3rd quarter vs Texas College on Sept. 11, 2021.

RIGHT: Eman McNeal, wide receiver, does a backflip in the end zone after a touchdown against Texas College.



"What a Time to Be a Lion"

Exclusive 100% PRESERVES

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION MONTH

What a Time to be a Lion.

EXCLUSIVE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 GAME NIGHT KICKOFF 6 PM	2
3	4 LATE NIGHT MADNESS 8 PM TO 12 AM	5	6 JUICE, JUKE, JOURNAL e4 PM	7	8 VOLLEYBALL GAME 1 PM FASHION SHOW 7 PM	9 Yoga & Meditation e11 AM Volleyball Game e6 PM
10 GOSPEL FEST 7 PM	11 T-Shirt Giveaway e11 AM NEO Soul Night e8 PM	12 CORONATION 7 PM Sneaker Ball e9 PM	13 Diva Fitness e4 PM COMEDY SHOW 8 PM	14 GRAM JAM SESSION e5 PM Trap Karaoke e8 PM	15 2000's BBQ e6 PM	16 ROAR WALK 12 PM FOOTBALL GAME 2 PM
17	18	19 BIRDBOX POETRY 9 PM Volleyball Game e7PM	20 Highschool Day e10 AM Movie Under the Stars e9 PM	21 Volleyball Game e7PM	22	23 LU MUSIC CHOICE AWARDS 8 PM
Sunset 24 Sunday e7 PM 31	25	26 HOMECOMING CONCERT 10 PM	27	28 Battle of the Sexes e7 PM	29 Volleyball Game e7PM	30

LU | BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

**FREE
LUNCH
ON
WEDNESDAY**